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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON MILITARY MATTERS

Guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 9 December 1992, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/54 B entitled "Guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters", the operative part of which reads, inter alia, as follows:

> "1. Endorses the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters as adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1992 substantive session;
>
> "2. Recommends the guidelines and recommendation to all States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in the region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;
>
> "3. Invites all States to provide relevant information to the Secretary-General regarding their implementation of the guidelines and recommendations not later than 31 May 1994;
>
> "4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the guidelines and recommendations, on the basis of national reports on accumulated relevant experience, to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session."

2. Pursuant to that request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 28 February 1994, invited Member States to provide relevant information on this matter. The replies received are reproduced in section II of the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[1 June 1994]

1. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria has been a persistent proponent of the concept of institutionalized exchange of objective information on military matters and greater overall transparency in this field. The translation of that concept into concrete steps to be undertaken by Member States of the United Nations on a voluntary basis has been well served by the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, as adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission at its 1992 substantive session.

2. Having accumulated relevant experience in the last few years, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria considers that the principles, goals, scope and recommended mechanisms contained in resolution 47/54 B, entitled "Guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters",

are in harmony with the foreign policy of the Republic of Bulgaria and correspond fully with its national interests. Accordingly, Bulgaria has strictly adhered to its declared willingness and, where available, obligations for exchanging information of a military character with other States, in the framework of the United Nations, as well as on regional and subregional levels.

3. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria is pleased to note that the guidelines and recommendations contained in resolution 47/54 B bear conceptual and practical coincidence with the texts of such important international instruments, to which Bulgaria is a party or a signatory, as the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, the Vienna Document 1992 on the negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures; the additional confidence- and security-building measures, signed, respectively, with the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Greece; and the Treaty on Open Skies.

4. The Republic of Bulgaria has also contributed to the adoption in 1993 by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) of two documents: one, a programme for military contacts and cooperation, and the other on planning in the area of defence.

5. Bulgaria's consistent participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and in the United Nations standardized system of reporting of military expenditures is yet another proof of its policy in favour of enhanced military transparency.

6. In the meantime, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria believes that there is a large scope for enlarging and improving the mechanisms of transparency and exchange of information in the military field, both in the context of voluntary contributions and through the verification and implementation arrangements of the various international arms-control and disarmament agreements.

JORDAN

[Original: English]

[22 June 1994]

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and affirms its commitment to and compliance with the United Nations guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters as adopted by the Disarmament Commission.

2. Jordan's ultimate goal is to witness a zone free of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, biological and chemical weapons) and their delivery systems. Jordan neither possesses nor intends to acquire such weapons.

3. It is important to note that Jordan's military capabilities are very modest and cannot be compared with those of its neighbours.

4. As regards to the military matters mentioned by the Disarmament Commission, the Government of Jordan would like to inform your Excellency that Jordan's military budget is publicly known. Jordan is participating in the ongoing multilateral peace talks and actively contributing in all areas pertaining to arms control and regional security.

5. Finally, the Government of Jordan shares with the Secretary-General of the United Nations the recognition of the importance of such matters and will continue to seek the cooperation of all States in the region to enhance regional security and stability.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[22 June 1994]

1. Finland welcomes all efforts taken by the United Nations, including those advocated by General Assembly resolution 47/54 B, aimed at greater openness and transparency in military matters. We believe that they will contribute to increased confidence and security in relations between Member States. Thus, in Finland's view, the flow of information on military matters should, whenever possible, be increased.

2. To that effect, Finland has participated in the international system of standardized reporting of military expenditures on an annual basis. The latest information on this matter was submitted by Finland to the Secretary-General at the end of April this year.

3. Likewise, we would like to refer to the information submitted by Finland to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms as well as to the communication of the views of the Government of Finland on the operation and possible further development of the Register. The United Nations Register provides a significant instrument in efforts to promote further transparency and openness of arms control and disarmament with a view to prevent destabilizing accumulations of armaments.

4. While submitting to the Secretary-General the information for the United Nations Register, Finland also gave additional information, previously submitted to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), on defence planning and on the exchange of military information of Finland.

5. These two mechanisms - the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations standardized system of reporting on military expenditures, together with the relevant regional efforts within the framework of CSCE, are, in the view of Finland, significant instruments in promoting the flow of objective information on military matters.

6. Finland also wishes to express support to other mechanisms mentioned in the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission at its 1992 session and

endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/54 B. We are convinced of the valuable role which, for example, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, regional centres for peace and disarmament as well as individual United Nations studies carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolutions might play in promoting the provision of objective information on military matters. Furthermore, Finland supports the important contribution which the Conference on Disarmament under its agenda item entitled "Transparency in armaments" also brings to the current discussion on the transparency of military expenditures.

SWITZERLAND

[Original: French]

[16 June 1994]

1. Swiss policy governing information on military matters is one of openness and objectivity. All relevant data concerning military expenditures, arms transfers and military equipment, for example, is freely accessible.

2. Switzerland participates in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. In 1993 and 1994, it gave notice of international transfers of conventional arms covering the fiscal years 1992 and 1993, respectively. General information on Swiss legislation concerning war matériel was appended to that notification.

3. Switzerland uses its observer status in the Conference on Disarmament to promote measures of transparency in armaments. In the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments, it supported the extension of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to military equipment and purchases related to national production. Switzerland would also look favourably on the extension of the Register to cover additional information on the size and organization of the armed forces and the military doctrine followed in the country.

4. On the regional level, Switzerland participates fully in the annual exchanges of military information that take place within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) by virtue of the Vienna Document of 1992. That information covers the structure of armed forces and the principal weapons used or planned for future use. Moreover, the States concerned are required to make public their military budgets two months following approval by their parliaments, utilizing the United Nations standardized system of reporting on military expenditures. Switzerland also participates actively in efforts to improve that system.